

IRON HOUSES.—The late frightful earthquakes in the West Indies, in which the brick and stone buildings of whole towns have been levelled with the ground, and the wooden ones consumed by the fires which usually burst out after the overthrow of the other buildings, have drawn the attention of many persons residing in districts subject to those awful visitations to the advantages of houses constructed of iron, which have been found to stand the shocks of the severest earthquakes uninjured, and which are, of course, proof against such conflagrations as that which swept away at Point-a-Pitre, in Guadeloupe, all that the earthquake had spared. Mr. W. Laycock, of Liverpool, who recently built an iron palace for one of the chiefs of the African coast, has just completed an iron cottage for the use of two maiden ladies, residing in the island of St. Lucia. It consists of three rooms, each 9 feet high—viz. one room 20 feet by 14 feet, and two rooms 12 feet by 10 feet. There are six large jealousy windows and two small ones over the front and back doors; these and the floor are the only parts made of wood. There is an inside ceiling of iron in panels, and the roof is in a wrought-iron frame and covered with galvanized plates of iron. The walls are formed of double plates of iron, with a thin stratum of air between them, an arrangement which will prevent the passing of the solar heat into the interior of the building, at least through the walls, and keep the interior delightfully cool. The weight of the building is 14 tons, and the cost rather more than 2000l.

THE PROPOSED GRAND PROMENADE, ON AVENUE AROUND HULL.—This magnificent project has been received with a degree of favour and support that promises highly for its accomplishment at no distant day. The object is to lay out a grand promenade or avenue, extending from the Humber on the west, in a regular course round the town of Hull to the Humber on the east, having a carriage-way of seventy feet in width, with two footpaths of about forty feet wide each, and to be separated by rows of ornamental trees. To accomplish this grand design, it is proposed to purchase ground, 150 yards wide, along the whole line; and to dispose of the fifty yards in width, remaining on each side of the promenade, for building purposes. The financial part of the plan is stated to be promising. The expenditure required for land, draining, tunnelling, planting, &c., is estimated at about 50,000l.; and the proceeds from the sale of building-ground is calculated in the end to realize nearly twice that amount, leaving a profit to the shareholders of cent. per cent.

FALL OF A NEW BUILDING, SCAFFOLDING, &c.—An accident happened lately at the new school-room, in the course of erection at Halstead, near the new church (Trinity), where the steeple fell on the 10th of July last. Several persons were employed carrying up an end of the building, when it suddenly gave way, and fell with a tremendous crash, carrying with it in its fall the scaffolding, &c.; the workmen experienced a most providential escape. The weight of the ruins was calculated at twenty tons. One of the bricklayers, whose escape when the steeple fell was truly providential, was at work at the school-room, and again experienced the same protecting care.—*Bury Post*.

NEW THEATRE AT TAUNTON.—The contemplated site for this building is the premises in Paul-street, lately occupied as livery stables by Mr. Hatchwell. The situation is the only spot left unbuild upon in the town. It is intended that the undertaking shall be carried out by shares, a great many of which have already been applied for. Should the scheme be successful, we hope the structure will be such as to do honour to the taste of the age, and a credit to the town and neighbourhood.—*Somerset Gazette*.

PERKIN'S METHOD OF HEATING THE AIR IN BUILDINGS, &c.—Angier March Perkins, of Harper-street, who had patents granted to him for the above purpose in 1831 and 1832, intends to petition for a prolongation of the respective terms of sole using and vending the same. A notice has appeared in the *London Gazette* to this effect, and application will be made to the Privy Council on the 11th of January next, to fix a day for the hearing of the matters contained in the said petition.

CABINET FIRE ENGINE.—An ingenious and useful description of engine, for the suppression of fires occurring suddenly in dwelling-houses, &c., has lately been invented, which, from its compactness, its extraordinary power, and the facility with which it can be brought to bear in cases of emergency, is deserving of public notice. In outward appearance the engine in question resembles a small cabinet or ornamental chest of drawers upon casters. Upon removing the mahogany top, however, a complete powerful fire-engine is discovered worked by a folding handle, and ready fitted with a hose long enough to reach from the first floor to the garret, or to the basement of a large house, and also furnished with pipes and all necessary apparatus, so contrived as to be available at a moment's notice, and when not in use to be easily stowed away upon the partition which divides the water from the external covering of the cabinet. The reservoir of this engine contains nearly a hoghead of water; and the whole affair, which may be easily worked with merely the strength of one woman, another directing the stream of water, does not occupy a space exceeding four feet square. It admits of being made and fitted up in any ornamental shape which may be desirable; and may be kept ready charged within a room or in any passage or corridor, where it would assume the appearance of rather a handsome piece of furniture, and from whence it can be wheeled in a minute, and in another minute be distributing such a stream of water as would effectually drown any incipient fire whatever. As a proof of its powers a small engine, not exceeding three feet square, and worked by a lad, threw a powerful stream of water completely over the house of the inventor, Mr. Merewether, of Long-acre.

DISCOVERY OF ROMAN BUILDINGS, &c.—There was lately discovered in a field near Lilleyhorn, Gloucestershire, an extensive range of Roman chambers, whose communications with each other were distinctly marked, and which in part exhibited the supports and bases of tesselated floors. They were bounded on one side by a wall of great thickness, but the limits of the whole have not yet been ascertained. There were various sorts of ancient brick-work, &c., and there were picked up many fragments of red and coloured glazed pottery, having various figures on them, antique glass, many little implements, &c., numerous coins in good preservation were also found, from the reigns of Valerian to Allectus inclusive, comprehending the Roman British empire.—*Gloucester Chronicle*.

IMPROVEMENTS AT CLETHORPE, LINCOLNSHIRE.—Great improvements are now going on at this favourite watering-place. Upon the lands lately set out and sold for building-ground, a great number of workmen are employed. The row of houses now being built near the High Cliff, at the Upper Thorpe, will command an extensive view of the German Ocean, and the opposite coast of Holderness. Building operations have also commenced on the property of the Rev. Mr. Mantell, of Louth, situate between the Upper and Lower Thorpes, and a street is formed, of the width of fifty feet, on both sides of which houses are to be built, for the accommodation of families of the first respectability.

A LARGE ORDER FOR BRICKS.—We learn that the Birkenhead Warehousing Company have engaged by contract the partners of a celebrated brickmaking firm of the south of England (who, we believe, made the bricks for the Eastern Counties Railway) for the supply against the next summer of 50,000,000 bricks, for the building of their warehouses on the southern margin of Wallasey Pool; and that within the last week 300 operative brickmakers have been sent from Kent to Birkenhead, and have already commenced operations there.—*Liverpool Paper*.

GAS.—A new gas company has been started at Liverpool, under the title of the "Liverpool Guardian Gas Company." The company proposes to fix the maximum selling price of gas at 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet, and to limit the maximum dividend to 7½ per cent. on the capital. It is in contemplation to form a new gas company in Hull, the profits of which are to be devoted to the general improvement of the town. A similar plan has been in operation for some time in Manchester, and works, we are told, exceedingly well.

LIGHTHOUSE ON THE GOODWIN SANDS.—Mr. Bush has at length established in his caisson upwards of 20 feet of the iron shaft or column on the summit of which the lighthouse will be placed. It is now above high-water mark, and there is nothing to prevent its being finished and ready to be illuminated by the 1st of January next. This shaft penetrates through the various iron chambers of the caisson, and is firmly sustained in its perpendicular position by two iron plumber blocks of great strength. It is also further secured by iron stays or braces, which are bolted to the outer part of the caisson, and attached to the top, as well as the centre of the column. The new light is proposed to have an elevation of 33 feet above high-water mark, and to be approached by a light, iron spiral stair, winding round the exterior of the column, within an octagon of about 10 feet diameter, surmounted by a plate-glass lantern. It appears that the caisson, which is 30 feet in diameter, has remained undisturbed in the same position in which it was sunk, when occurred the untoward accident of the American bark being driven against it, shortly after Mr. Bush had partially fixed it, which completely frustrated his original plan of making the superstructure of solid masonry. The caisson is, however, to be filled up with blocks of stone and concrete; the naval authorities of Deal have reported to the Admiralty that they expect mainland will be formed, the caisson forming a nucleus for accomplishing this most desirable object.

MANCHESTER IMPROVEMENTS.—The committee have laid before the public the outline of their scheme for giving to the people of Manchester the means of recreation by the opening of parks and walks. They propose the formation of four places of recreation, of about thirty acres each; that a gymnasium, on a large scale, be erected in each, free of charge; that, where possible, spaces be obtained for ball-alley, quoits, skittles, archery, and other active sports, and available to players at a charge merely to cover the implements of play that may be used; that each park contain one or more fountains of pure water; that numerous seats be erected in proper situations for general accommodation; that buildings be erected where tea, coffee, and other refreshments may be obtained, but where no intoxicating liquors of any kind shall be allowed; that such parks be open to the public on all days of the week; and that the gymnasium, ball-alley, quoit, skittle, or archery grounds shall be closed on Sundays. The committee add that they have every reason to expect that public baths, wash-houses, &c., free, or at a merely nominal charge, will be erected simultaneously with the promotion of the parks and play-grounds.—*Manchester Times*.

MACHINES FOR DRYING CLOTHES.—Machines for this purpose are used in the large cotton-print works in the neighbourhood of Manchester. These machines, which are generally made of copper, somewhat resemble a large or deep washing-tub, with the sides perforated all over with holes about the size of those in a common cullender. The goods to be dried are placed in this machine, which is then made to revolve with great rapidity, causing the contents to fly to the sides, against which they are pressed by the centrifugal force, and the moisture they contain is thus sent off through the holes, leaving the cotton or whatever it may be in a few seconds nearly dry.

THE IRON TRADE.—The men in Stourbridge district, instead of wanting work, have now more than they are inclined to execute. This and similar cases are the result of the improved condition of the iron trade, in every branch of which, with the exception of nailing, the greatest activity prevails: employment is plentiful, the men are getting better wages, and, consequently, many of them are disposed to do less work. We believe there is not an iron work in this district now standing; and the price of iron, of almost every description, has advanced since the last quarter-day, and has still a tendency upwards.—*Worcester paper*.

NEW COLLEGE AT GLASGOW.—Nineteen individuals, ten of whom are resident in Glasgow, have subscribed towards the building of the projected college, in connection with the Free church, the sum of 19,000l.